

Kings Canyon CCC Backcountry Trail Crew
May 2013 Overview
Tessa d'Usseau: Supervisor

Kings Canyon 2013 Backcountry Trail Crew arrived at Lewis Creek on April 26th and settled in for our 2 month stay in the frontcountry. After meeting Kings Canyon Trails Staff (Dave Karplus, Adam Zamastil, Edlyn Clevenger, Andy Head, Greg Bishoff and our cook Alicia Medina) we set out to learn everything we can about Kings Canyon Trail Crew life. Our first task was to make sure we covered all Job Hazard Analysis (JHA's) pertaining to work, camp and weekends. Once completed we began our major project while in the frontcountry, a Universal Access Trail, funded by the Sequoia Parks Foundation. This trail runs from Zumwalt Meadows to Roads Ends (~1.1 miles). The work entails treading a 4' by 5" trough and filling it with a gravel/clay road base material that is then dampened down to create a smooth surface. Along this stretch of trail the crew has also completed re-routes, removed large rocks from the bed of the trail, and rehabbed the surrounding meadow. The final stretch of trail should be completed by the time we leave for the backcountry on July 1st.

Besides our work project we have been keeping busy in the evenings covering a diverse curriculum including: more safety topics, policy/procedures, and visitor/corpsmember taught classes. David Karplus spent a day with the crew covering proper body ergonomics and stretching exercises specific for trail workers. Alicia Medina covered Camp Hygiene and Food Handling. Sandy Rose taught a Journaling/Meditation Class as well as a session with Mel Ledbury on Epi-pen use. A Daily Vehicle Maintenance Class was taught by Kyle Kenneally and an Ice-Breaker Class was team-taught by Jeff Burnor and Kelsey Kuhn. NPS Trail Crew Foreman Luis Rangel (Klamath 2007) spent an evening teaching a Cumbia Dance Class. Ned Kelleher (NPS Supervisory Park Ranger) stopped by and talked about his job and responsibilities as a Park Ranger and we had an evening of Volleyball vs the NPS Trail Crew (and yes, NPS won for the 4th year in a row). One night a week has been allocated for our crew Community Meeting where we discuss all the "nuts and bolts" that keep the "crew machine" functioning, and another night has been set aside for the crew to plan their Weekend Backpack Trips. So far the crew has used their weekends to hike to Sphinx Camp, Paradise Valley, Frypan, and Reflection Lake. We also had the opportunity to hike around the Grant Grove Giant Sequoia's, stopped by the Visitor Center for some Kings Canyon History, and had a tour of the Boyden Caves.

Thanks to all the Kings, Canyon Trail Community for welcoming us to Kings Canyon (Dave Karplus, Cameron Aveson, Adam Zamastil, Edlyn Clevenger, Andy Head, Greg Bishoff, Alicia Medina, Bobby Zekanowski, Dan DeVoe, Luis Rangel, Marty Maine, Phil Charles, Mattlee Hagadorn, Lilia Otero, Andi Anderson, LB Gunter, Tim Joyce, Justin Stanis, Dewey Loft, Sophie Carrillo-Mandel, Zach Lichty and Norma Maine).

Thanks to long time Backcountry Sponsor (Stanislaus) and program advocate John Goodwin for stopping by to say hi to the crew!